GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:351
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
DEVELOPMENT OF SURROUNDINGS OF TAJ MAHAL
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar;Sajjan Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has held talks recently with the local officials to give a modern look to the surroundings of `The Taj` keeping in view the international tourism;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The target set for completion of the said project ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b)Yes, Sir. Several site visits and series of discussions have been held recently. Based on this a comprehensive project for `Agra Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal` vicinity has been prepared with a project cost of Rs.39.34 crore. Ministry of Tourism has already sanctioned Rs. 767.00 lakhs for infrastructure improvement from East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal and Rs.758.00 lakhs from West Gate Entry to Taj Mahal. A detailed break up is at Annexure I. In addition, the other projects sanctioned for Agra and surrounding areas are at Annexure II.

The State Government and District Administration has been requested to remove encroachments, hoardings and ensure a high level of civic governance.

(c) The integrated project will be completed within a period of 36 months.